



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**FEB 28 2003**

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Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an environmental analysis of the West Hay Creek tract to lease Federal coal to the Buckskin Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comments. The Draft EIS may also be reviewed on the BLM Wyoming homepage ([www.wy.blm.gov](http://www.wy.blm.gov)). Copies of the Draft EIS also are available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management  
Casper Field Office  
2987 Prospector Drive  
Casper, Wyoming 82604

A formal public hearing on the application to lease the tract of Federal coal will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 16, 2003, at the Clarion Western Plaza Hotel, 2009 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources.

BLM will accept public comments on this Draft EIS for sixty (60) days, commencing on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Comments received after the end of the 60-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS as time permits. BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability and Notice of Hearing in the Federal Register.

If you wish to comment on the Draft EIS, your comments should relate directly to the document. We request that you make your comments as specific as possible and that you cite the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting. The agencies involved in preparing this Draft EIS are required to respond in the Final EIS to all substantive comments submitted. Substantive comments should: (1) give any new information that could alter conclusions; (2) show why or how analysis or assumptions in the Draft EIS are flawed; (3) show errors in data, sources, or methods; or (4) request clarifications that bear on conclusions. Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

This Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This Draft EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing Federal coal to an existing mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the coal.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Patricia Karbs, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Patricia Karbs at [casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:casper_wymail@blm.gov). E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commenter to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to (307) 261-7587.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain additional copies of this DEIS, please contact Patricia Karbs at (307) 261-7612 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Bennett  
State Director